

The Mail Ego

By Terrance O'Flaherty

"Isn't the medical profession angry about the sloppy manner in which doctors and hospital staffs are pictured on television? There is constant infringement of medical ethics, doctors and nurses often talk in front of patients about their illness, and all sorts of misleading information is given out about surgery."

Most directors make an effort to seek medical advice from professionals if a scene is important but they seldom let accuracy get in the way of the drama. This is a disappointment to my mother. While under the spell of Dr. Ben Casey some years back she was convinced that she could perform almost any major surgery if she only had the right tools.

"Where are the Beatles performing now?"

No where. They gave up personal appearances several years ago. They will be in Hollywood soon and are looking for a 7-bedroom house to buy. They're willing to pay about \$250,000.

"What has happened to Robert Young who was the star of 'Father Knows Best?' In this day of domestic troubles and campus strife it is pleasant to remember that sweet series."

In recent years Young has limited himself to infrequent screen roles but he will be the star of a new movie-for-TV titled "Marcus Welby, M.D." soon to be seen on ABC. If successful it could become a weekly series.

"Is 'The Graduate' a popular movie in Europe?"

It's appeal seems to be international. Based on present returns it is expected to bring in \$100 million in the next three years.

"The Christmas episode of 'Dragnet' where the missing statue of The Virgin isn't stolen but only taken for a ride in the little boy's wagon was the most charming thing on TV all year. Did it really happen?"

Yes, but it took place in San Francisco. Jack Webb staged it in the adobe church on Los Angeles's old Plaza because the series is based on the L.A. Police Department. It was shown four times on the original "Dragnet" series. Two years ago Webb refilmed it with his current co-star Harry Morgan.

"Is Buddy Ebsen's name real?"

Almost. He was born Christian Rudolph Ebsen.

"I know that Charlton Heston and Yul Brunner were in the recent movie 'The Ten Commandments' but who starred in the silent version?"

Richard Dix. Rod LaRoque, and Estelle Taylor.

"Where is Jerry Colonna these days?"

Last time I saw him he was riding the Chrysler float in the

recent Tournament of Roses Parade. It was his first public appearance since his illness in 1966.

"I have heard that Lawrence Welk is going off the air. Is it true?"

Not unless you know something Welk doesn't. ABC has just renewed his show for two more years.

"Who is the young Italian who is in the new TV series 'My Friend Tony' the new NBC TV series?"

Enzo Cerusico (pronounced chuh-roo-see-ko) is a Roman actor, age 27, first seen on American TV in a small role in "I Spy" which was filmed in Italy. The response was good and producer Sheldon Leonard decided to build a show around him. He moved to Hollywood with his wife last fall.

Anti-Obscenity Bills Introduced in Senate

Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Two bills designed to strengthen and add to California's laws against obscene material were introduced in the state senate Thursday by Senator Robert J. Lagomarsino (R-Ventura).

The bills are SB 62 and 63. The first measure defines "harmful matter," and makes a person who knowingly sends, or causes to be sent, exhibits, or offers to distribute such material to a person under 18 years of age, will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The next bill refers to "obscene matter," and provides a test for judging "the predominant appeal to prurient interest." It provides that where circumstances indicate the matter is commercially exploited for the sake of prurient interest, such evidence can justify a conclusion that the matter is without redeeming social importance.

FURTHER, the measure makes certain violations a felony, rather than a misdemeanor, when there have been prior convictions of specified offenses.

It recasts provisions punishing the act of advertising or otherwise promoting obscene matter, and makes such provision applicable to exhibiting, as well as distributing obscene matter.

The harmful matter bill also some responsibility on minors as it has a provision that if a minor falsifies his age to obtain the harmful matter, he is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Dividends to Veterans To Total \$30 Million

More than 520,000 California World War I and World War II veterans holding G.I. insurance policies will receive \$30 million in dividends during 1969, Mort Webster, manager of VA's Southern California regional office, announced today.

Dividends will be paid on the anniversary dates of the policies throughout the year, Webster said.

Nationally, VA will pay out \$236 million in dividends in 1969 to approximately 4,250,000 veterans holding National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) and United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) policies.

THIS IS \$13 million more than the 1968 dividend payment of \$223 million, Webster explained. The VA regional office manager said that the 492,000 World War II veterans in California who hold NSLI policies will receive \$28,000,000 in dividends in 1969. Nationally, NSLI dividends in 1969 will total \$218 million, with payments averaging about \$53 to 4,100,000 World War II veterans. Increased interest earnings on government life insurance funds made possible the higher 1969 dividends, Webster said.

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